

LOWER ELWHA TREATY COUNCIL SECTION 4.6 CRAB REGULATION FOR REGION 5

The following regulation is promulgated by the Lower Elwha Treaty Council and shall govern the conduct of off-reservation commercial Dungeness crab fisheries by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in Region 5, Hood Canal. The term of this regulation is from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024, unless superceded, and is intended to regulate the Dungeness crab harvest by the Lower Elwha Tribe in Region 5 under provisions of Paragraph 4.6 of United States v. Washington, 898 F. supp. 1453 (W.D. Wash. 1995), as amended by the Stipulation and Order Amending Shellfish Implementation Plan, dated April 8, 2002, (hereafter "Implementation Order"). In the event the Region 5 Crab Harvest Management Plan is completed before the end of this regulation term, this regulation will be superceded by a new regulation conforming to the provisions of the Region 5 Crab Harvest Management Plan.

FILING ORGANIZATION: LOWER ELWHA TREATY COUNCIL

REGULATION NUMBER: #S23-110

DATE ADOPTED: DECEMBER 4, 2023

REGULATION # S22-028, SECTIONS 5 AND 7a.

SUPERCEDED/MODIFIED: NONE

REGULATION SUPERCEDED:

CATCH AREAS: REGION 5: CATCH REPORTING AREAS 25C, 27A, AND THAT PART OF AREA 27B NORTH OF AYOCK PT.

FISHERY TYPE: COMMERCIAL

SPECIES: DUNGENESS CRAB (*Metacarcinus magister*) AND RED ROCK CRAB (*Cancer productus*)

ON/OFF RESERVATION: OFF

EFFECTIVE DATES: DECEMBER 6TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2023

DAYS/HOURS:

1. FOR THE LOWER ELWHA TRIBE: OPEN 11:00 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH , CLOSE 11:00AM FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH.

2. POTS MAY ONLY BE CHECKED FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE TO 30 MINUTES AFTER SUNSET EACH DAY.

LEGAL GEAR:

1. AS PER REGULATION #S23-028, SECTION 7 AND SECTION 8.

2. A BUOY MAY BE ANY COLOR EXCEPT FOR A COMBINATION OF RED AND WHITE. IF ANY PORTION OF A BUOY IS RED, NO REMAINING PORTION MAY BE WHITE. IF ANY PORTION OF A BUOY IS WHITE, NO REMAINING PORTION MAY BE RED.
3. LONG LINE FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED: EACH POT BEING FISHED MUST HAVE A SURFACE BUOY ATTACHED.

GEAR LIMITS:

THE POT LIMIT IS 35 POTS PER VESSEL AND PER FISHER IN ALL AREAS COMBINED.
HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:

1. THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR HARVEST IS 6 1/4 INCHES FOR DUNGENESS CRAB AND 5 INCHES FOR RED ROCK CRAB. MINIMUM SIZE IS MEASURED AS CALIPER LENGTH ACROSS THE BACK OF THE CRAB, IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE TIPS.
2. ONLY MALE CRAB MAY BE TAKEN.
3. RECENTLY MOLTED, SOFT-SHELLED CRAB MAY NOT BE TAKEN. ALL CRAB TAKEN MUST BE CHECKED FOR SHELL HARDNESS.
4. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR FISHERS TO RETAIN AND POSSESS ANY FEMALE, UNDERSIZED AND SOFT-SHELLED CRABS. ALL FEMALE, UNDERSIZED AND SOFT-SHELLED DUNGENESS CRABS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED.

REGISTRATION:

ALL TRIBAL FISHERS PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGION 5 CRAB FISHERY MUST REGISTER AT THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE PRIOR TO FISHING. AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION, FISHERS SHALL REPORT THE NUMBER OF POTS TO BE USED.

CATCH REPORTING:

ALL COMMERCIAL CATCHES SHALL BE REPORTED ON TREATY INDIAN FISH RECEIVING TICKETS. THE WEIGHT OF ALL CRAB RECEIVED AND NOT PURCHASED FOR ANY REASON SHALL BE RECORDED AS TAKE HOME OR SPECIES CODE 20-561 ON TREATY INDIAN FISH RECEIVING

TICKETS. ALL SUBSISTENCE CRAB HARVEST SHALL BE REPORTED ON SHELLFISH SUBSISTENCE CARDS. CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

1. AS PER REGULATION #S23-028. THE USE OF ANY CLAM SPECIES DUG FROM BEACHES OPENED FOR SUBSISTENCE HARVEST WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROHIBITED.
2. IT IS UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE FROM THE WATER OR TAMPER WITH ANOTHER FISHER'S CRAB GEAR. ANY CRAB GEAR FOUND WITHOUT LEGIBLE IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE.
3. FISHERS MUST ADHERE TO ANY TRIBAL SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS WHILE AT THE BOAT LAUNCH AND ON THE WATER.

LOST GEAR REPORTING:

1. ALL FISHERS MUST REPORT LOST GEAR TO ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FISHERY.
2. LOWER ELWHA FISHERS MUST FILL OUT A LOST POT FORM AND SUBMIT IT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE CLOSE OF THE FISHERY.

JUSTIFICATION:

COMMENCE TREATY HARVEST OF AVAILABLE CRAB IN HOOD CANAL.

OPENING HC 48 HOUR FISHERY

(LOWER ELWHA FISHERIES
760 STRATTON ROAD
PORT ANGELES, WA 98363)